

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program Shows you the Money to Protect the Resource!

Why?

It's time to start turning plans and goals in Northwest Indiana into reality. As the Lake Michigan Coastal Program gets ready for the 2005 grant cycle, it is the time for government agencies, education institutions, and others to apply for funds to finance projects that protect and restore natural, cultural and historical resources in Indiana's Lake Michigan coastal region.

How Much?

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program is making \$850,000 available for grants to state and local entities for projects meeting the program criteria. The program has awarded funding to 35 projects to the tune of almost two and a half million dollars since its inception in 2002.

What's the Focus?

The program is looking to build on past experience and reach new heights in 2005. The Coastal Advisory Board recently voted on priorities for the 2005 funding cycle. The priorities include Natural Area Restoration, Natural Area Protection, and Natural Area Management including resource management plans, diagnostic studies. Projects that meet one of these goals receive extra consideration in the proposal review process.

How's It Work?

The funding for 2005 funding cycle is comprised of two components - \$800,000 for large scale project grants (maximum award of \$100,000 each), and \$50,000 for small scale, short-term non-construction grants (maximum award of \$5,000 each.)

There will be three grant workshops where applicants can learn about the application process and ask specific questions regarding project eligibility. The location and time of the workshops are as follows:

- **LaPorte County** - Monday, November 22nd, at Michigan City Public Library, Michigan City, 10:30am – 12 noon
- **Porter County** - Wednesday, December 1st, at Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, 6100 Southport Rd., Portage, 10:30am – 12 noon
- **Lake County** - Thursday, December 9th, at Hobart City Council Chambers, 414 Main St., Hobart 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Where?

Projects must be located entirely in the Lake Michigan Coastal Area, the northern portion of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties. Large scale projects must be completed within 18 months from date of approval, and small scale projects must be completed in six months. For a map of the grant area, point your web browser to: www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/pdf/cpa.pdf

Current projects include the Marquette Greenway project, Deep Rivers Headwaters Land Acquisition, Bio-study of the Paul Zona Wildlife Refuge, Coffee Creek Watershed Project, and the Michigan City Hansen Park Reconstruction Study. A complete list of projects is available at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/pdf/projectupdate.pdf>

When?

Applications for project funding are due to the DNR's Division of Soil Conservation, LMCP by **January 7, 2005**. The LMCP will begin accepting applications **November 15, 2004**.

Please see <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/grants/coastalgrants.html> for additional information or email coastal@dnr.state.in.us for application forms.

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